VI. *Part of a Letter from Mr.* Thomas Robie, *Phyſician in* New-England, *to the Reverend Mr.* Derham, *F. R. S. Concerning the Effects of Inoculation; The Eclipſe of the Sun in* November 1722; *And the Venom of Spiders.*

Salem, Tueſday June 4. 1723.

WE don't as yet ſee any ill Effects of Inoculation, but the Inoculated are as yet as well, and ſome of them a great deal better than ever; as for the ill Conſequences that have been in *England*, I can't tell what they may ariſe from, but I can hardly think they are the genuine Effects of Inoculation, but may ariſe from ſome previous Diſpoſition to ſuch Diſtempers as you mention, or for want of due Evacuations after Inoculation, and too ſoon healing the Places of Inciſion; but I dare not pretend to ſay any more, and ſo leave it to the Opinion of better Judges; but only aſſure you I don't know, as yet of any ſuch ill Effects in this Country.

As to the great Eclipſe of the Sun in *November* laſt, I will give you my Obſervations thereof, when I have told you, that at *Yale* College, in *Connecticut* Colony, I have an Account that their Obſervers ſuppoſed it to be but about 8 Digits, when by my Calculation for *Cambridge*, it was to have been above 11. *Yale* College lies about 8′ or 10′ Weſt from *Camb.* in Lat. about 41° ½ North. I never calculated it for that place, but I did for *London*, and it agrees to about

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7′ or 8′ with your Obſervations, and pretty exact as ~~to the Digits.~~ ~~The Gentleman that~~ writes me word of this, tells me he calculated it and could make it ſcarce 7 *dig.* eclipſed, and that it paſſed off from *America* into the Sea, a great deal more ſouthward than I made it, for by my Calculation it was to be central at Cape *Cod*, and ſo to paſs over to the Iſles of Cape *de Verd*. But taking him to be very much miſtaken, I proceed to give you my Obſervations, as far as I was able to make them; and I think they were well and truly made.

		ſt.	*h.*	*′*	
Nov. 27.	1722.	1	7	27	morn. I ſaw the Sun riſe Eclipſed, on its ſupreme Vertex to the South, about 4 *Dig.* tho' ſome on the Top of the new College ſaw it 2′ or 3′ before. The Sun's true riſing this Morn. was 7 *h.* 30′, hence the Refraction is about 6′ and ſo I have often obſerved it. From this time, till about 8 *h.* 30′ or 40′ I ſaw no more of the Sun, but then I judge it was eclips'd 6 *dig.* or more.

d.	*h.*	*′*	*″*	
2	8	55	15	The Sun was eclipſed 4 ¼ *Dig.* neareſt.
3	9	00	16	4 *Dig.* ½.
4	9	19	45	A little Spot in the Sun emerged.
5	9	25	45	I ſaw the Moon go off the Sun.
	9	25	45	Mr. *Danforth* in a Room juſt by me ſaw the Shadow go

go off the Paper about 30° from its lower Vertex to the Eaſt.

h. *l* *ll*
9 25 20 Mr. *Appleton* ſaw the Shadow go off the Paper fix'd to the College Braſs Quadrant at his Houſe.

Mr. *Owen Harris*, an ingenious Schoolmaſter in *Boſton*, ſays he obſerved the End at about 26′ *p.* 9.

By the ſecond Obſervation the Sun's Diameter was to the Moon's As 1000 to 972; by the third, As 1000 to 975. At *Boſton* the Eclipſe was obſerved, allowing for its Diſtance, as I obſerved it at the College. And at *Barnſtable*, on Cape *Cod*, there was but a little left of the Sun, and nearer the Head of the Cape there was a Ring of Light quite round the Moon.

The Teleſcope I made my Obſervations by is 24 Feet long. The Teleſcope that Mr. *Danforth* uſed, thro' which the Rays were tranſmitted, was 8 Feet, and the Braſs Quadrant the very ſame Dr. *Halley* uſed at *St. Helena*. If I have been guilty of any Miſtake pardon me, and if, with eaſe, you could tell me where the Shadow would paſs off *America*, I ſhould be glad, for I made it to be about Cape *Cod*. Taking its Latitude to be 40° North, or 40° 10′ and Eaſt from the College 10′ or 15′ I forget which.

I ſhall now give you an Account of a remarkable Accident relating to the Venom of Spiders. *Sept.* 13. 1722 one *Nat. Ware* of *Needham* was bit by a ſmall Spider, which he could not give an exact Deſcription of, cruſhing it to Pieces between his Stock-

ing and Leg; the Account he gave is this; *viz.* That getting up early in the Morning, and putting on his Stocking he preſently felt ſomething bite his left Leg a little above his Ancle, about ¼ an Hour after he felt a Pain in that Leg, and about ½ an hour from his firſt perceiving Pain in his Leg, he felt a Pain in his Groin, and at the ſame Time a creeping Pain in the Calf of his left Leg; and about one Hour after it got into the Small of his Back, and then round him, and in his Stomach, and in his right Thigh, and afterwards Numbneſs in his Head; the Pains were not conſtant and fixed, but erratick and very acute. His Pulſe was very low and heavy. He came to *Camb.* to a Phyſician there, and I was alſo deſired to go and ſee him, which I did, and he gave me this Account.

Sept. 14. In the Morning the Man aboveſaid came to ſee me, and was much better tho' he had but little Sleep in the Night. The Means the Doctor uſed were only *Sp. Cor. Cerv. & Sal Vol. Corn. Cerv.* with *Vinum Viperin.* and Onions or Garlick externally applied to the Place where the Wound was. Theſe things raiſed his Pulſe, and ſo, I ſuppoſe, aſſiſted Nature to throw off the Venom.

VII. *Obſer-*